

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0579

INFO USMISSION BERLIN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 02844

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, WB, GW, US

SUBJECT: PROPOSED BUNDESTAG PRESIDUM MEETING IN WEST
BERLIN

REF: (A) STATE 34115; (B) BONN 2800

1. THE AMBASSADOR CALLED ON MINISTER BAHR A.M. OF FEB 21 TO MAKE PRESENTATION PER PARA 3 REFTEL A. BAHR SAID FLATLY THAT THE FRG WOULD NOT MAKE THE REQUESTED APPROACH (POINT B, SAME REFTEL), SAYING THAT THIS WAS A MATTER FOR THE THREE ALLIES. BAHR INDICATED THAT THE ENTIRE MATTER WAS MADE URGENT BY RENGERS INTENTION TO ANNOUNCE TODAY (FEB 21) THE PLANS FOR A MARCH 5 PRESIDUM MEETING IN BERLIN.

2. THE AMBASSADOR RESPONDED THAT THIS WAS PRECISELY THE KIND OF ARTIFICIAL PRESSURE WHICH WE DID NOT WANT TO BE FACED WITH AND SAID THAT THE ALLIES WERE NOT IN A POSI-
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TION TO COME TO A CONCLUSION ON THE PROPOSED MARCH 5

MEETING UNTIL THERE WAS A CHANCE TO CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE FACTS OF THE MATTER, E.G., WHY NEED FOR MEETING SO SOON AND PROPOSED AGENDA. THE AMBASSADOR THEREUPON PROPOSED THAT BAHR INFORM RENGER THAT U.S. DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE SUDDEN URGENCY OF SUCH A MEETING, THAT THE ALLIES COULD COME TO NO DECISION UNTIL FULL CONSULTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF THE FACTS HAD OCCURRED AND THAT THE U.S. WAS MOST HOPEFUL THAT SHE WOULD NOT MAKE ANY ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING SUCH A MEETING. BAHR AGREED TO DO THIS.

3. SHORTLY AFTER MEETING WITH BAHR, THE AMBASSADOR MET WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER FRANK AND COVERED SAME GROUND AS HE HAD WITH BAHR, MENTIONING THAT BAHR HAD AGREED TO CONTACT RENGER. FRANK SAID THAT BAHR HAD TELEPHONED TO INFORM HIM OF THE CONVERSATION AND AGREEMENT AND THAT HR WAS GETTING IN TOUCH WITH RENGER. FRANK THEN STRONGLY REITERATED POSITION HE HAD TAKEN AT HIS LUNCHEON WITH THREE ALLIED AMBASSADORS ON DAY PREVIOUS (PARA 2, REFTEL B) SAYING IT WAS QUITE A LOT FOR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO BE WILLING TO ALIGN ITSELF COMPLETELY, IN THE FACE OF BERLIN'S DESIRES AND WHAT THE OPPOSITION COULD DO, ON WHAT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE A NEGATIVE APPROACH TO RENGER. FRANK SAID HE WOULD THINK THAT DISCUSSION IN BONN GROUP COULD LEAD TO A CONCLUSION THAT PRESIDUM AND COUNCIL OF ELDERS MEETINGS IN BERLIN WERE IN ACCORD WITH THE QA BUT THAT THEY WERE NOT NOW POLITICALLY OPPORTUNE, AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD PRESENT AN ABSOLUTELY COMMON FRONT ON THIS WITH THE ALLIES.

4. COMMENT: THERE IS NO WAY OF TELLING, OF COURSE, IF RENGER WILL BE DETERRED FROM GOING AHEAD WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT, AND IT IS CLEAR FROM BOTH BAHR AND FRANK THAT THEY ARE NOT AT ALL CONFIDENT IN THE ABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO CONTROL THE PRESIDENT OF THE BUNDESTAG. AT THE SAME TIME BAHR OBVIOUSLY IS MOST ANXIOUS TO KEEP FROM BEING PUT IN THE POSITION WHERE HE (AND THE GOVERNMENT) COULD COME IN FOR CRITICISM FOR TRYING TO BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON A CONFIDENTIAL

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SEPARATE BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT. REGARDING FRANK'S COMMENTS NOTED ABOVE, WE ARE NOT SO SANGUINE THAT THREE ALLIES WILL BE ABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT THAT MEETINGS IN BERLIN OF PRESIDUM AND COUNCIL OF ELDERS WOULD NECESSARILY BE IN CONFORMITY WITH QA (SEE BRITISH VIEWS AS REPORTED IN BONN 1664).

5. WE WILL NOW MOVE AHEAD IN BONN GROUP

WITH A VIEW TO HAVING THE FULL CONSULTATION AND CONSID-
ERATION OF FACTS REQUIRED FOR DECISION TO BE
MADE PUBLIC.
HILLENBRAND

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